

# Fiscal Services Division

## Legislative Services Agency

### Fiscal Note

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HF 851 - Death Certificate Fee (LSB 1632 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

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#### **Description**

House File 851 requires the fee charged by the State or a County Registrar for the first certified copy of a death certificate be set at \$15.00, and \$10.00 for each additional certified copy ordered at the same time.

#### **Background**

The current fee for a certified copy of a death certificate is \$15.00 each. Certified copies may be obtained from either the State or a County Registrar where the death occurred. The fee was raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00 by administrative rule effective in January 2005, with a portion of the fee increase to be used to assist the State Medical Examiner's Office in providing vital records information to the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

The majority (94.0%) of certified death certificate copies are issued at the county level. For each \$15.00 fee collected by a County Registrar, \$4.00 is retained by the respective County Registrar, as required by Section 331.605(6), Code of Iowa, \$6.00 is remitted to and retained by the State Registrar, \$3.00 is provided to the State Medical Examiner's Office, and \$2.00 is deposited into the State General Fund.

For each \$15.00 fee collected by the State Registrar for a certified death certificate copy, \$9.00 is retained by the State Registrar, \$3.00 is provided to the State Medical Examiner's Office, and \$3.00 is deposited into the State General Fund.

Under the current fee structure, a total of \$2.0 million in revenue is generated annually from these fees. The table below provides details on the amounts provided to County Registrars, the State Registrar, the State Medical Examiner's Office, and the State General Fund from these revenues.

#### **Current Death Certificate Fee Revenue - Annual**

	<b>Copies Issued</b>	<b>County Reg. Fees</b>	<b>State Reg. Fees</b>	<b>Medical Examiner</b>	<b>State Gen. Fund</b>
County	125,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 250,000
State	8,000	0	72,000	24,000	24,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 822,000</b>	<b>\$ 399,000</b>	<b>\$ 274,000</b>

#### **Assumptions**

1. The number of certified copies of death certificates issued will remain constant at 133,000 per year. Of these, 125,000 (94.0%) will be issued by a County Registrar and 8,000 (6.0%) will be issued by the State Registrar.
2. Of those issued by a County Registrar, it is assumed that 31,250 (25.0%) will be issued at \$15.00 each and 93,750 (75.0%) will be issued at \$10.00 each.
3. Of those issued by the State Registrar, it is assumed that 7,600 (95.0%) will be issued at \$15.00 each and 400 (5.0%) will be issued at \$10.00 each.

4. The amount of revenue retained by County Registrars from these fees will not be impacted as counties will continue to retain \$4.00 from each fee charged.
5. The amount of revenue generated by County Registrars from these fees and provided to the State Registrar's Office will not be impacted as counties will continue to remit \$6.00 from each fee charged.
6. The amount of revenue generated by County Registrars from these fees and provided to the State Medical Examiner's Office will be reduced by an estimated \$281,000.
7. The amount of revenue generated by County Registrars from these fees and deposited into the State General Fund will be reduced by an estimated \$188,000.
8. The amount of revenue retained by the State Registrar's Office from these fees will not be impacted as the Office will continue to retain \$9.00 from each fee charged.
9. The amount of revenue generated by the State Registrar's Office from these fees and deposited into the State General Fund will not be impacted as \$3.00 from each fee charged will continue to be deposited.
10. The amount of revenue generated by the State Registrar's Office from these fees and provided to the State Medical Examiner's Office will be reduced by an estimated \$1,000.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact of HF 851 is an estimated reduction of \$470,000 in revenues generated from fees charged for certified copies of death certificates. This would include a reduction of \$282,000 for the State Medical Examiner's Office and a reduction in revenue to the State General Fund of \$188,000. The table below provides details on the amounts that would be available for County Registrars, the State Registrar, the State Medical Examiner's Office, and the State General Fund under HF 851.

**Death Certificate Fee Revenue Estimate Under HF 851**

	<b>Copies Issued</b>	<b>County Reg. Fees</b>	<b>State Reg. Fees</b>	<b>Medical Examiner</b>	<b>State Gen. Fund</b>
County	125,000	\$500,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 93,750	\$ 62,500
State	8,000	0	72,000	23,100	24,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$ 822,000</b>	<b>\$ 116,850</b>	<b>\$ 86,500</b>

### **Source**

Department of Public Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

April 13, 2005

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.

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